

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 AID-05 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
L-03 H-01 NSC-05 EB-08 AGRE-00 COME-00 CIAE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9781
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1959

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GT, SHUM, EAID, MASS
SUBJ: GOG TACITLY ASSENTS TO HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING REQUIREMENT

1. SUMMARY: SIGNING OF AN AID GRANT AGREEMENT MARCH 30
REPRESENTED A BREAKTHROUGH OF SORTS SINCE IT WAS FIRST TEST,
SINCE PUBLICATION OF 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT, OF WHETHER GOG
WOULD BALK, AS IT DID LAST YEAR, AT ASSISTANCE PREDICATED ON
HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING. END SUMMARY

2. ON MARCH 30 THE GUATEMALAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, SECRETARY
GENERAL OF PLANNING COUNCIL, AND DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY SIGNED A ROUTINE AGREEMENT
CONTINUING A GRANT UNDER WHICH AID PROVIDES ANNUALLY \$475
THOUSAND TO FUND EXPERTS IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH DIRECTED AT
SMALL FARMERS.

3. THE CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT FOR A FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
REPORT ON GUATEMALA, EITHER AS A RECIPIENT OF DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE OR AS A POSSIBLE RECIPIENT OF SECURITY
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ASSISTANCE IN FY 1979, HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER
THE GOG WOULD RENOUNCE ASSISTANCE PREDICATED ON A HUMAN
RIGHTS REPORT. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT IT DID SO
FORMALLY IN 1977 WITH RESPECT TO SECURITY ASSISTANCE,
ALTHOUGH ITS REJECTION WAS MUDDIED BY THE FACT THAT IT
QUIETLY CONTINUED TO REQUEST AND MAKE FMS PURCHASES, ALBEIT

ON A CASH BASIS.

4. THE MARCH 30 EVENT MARKED THE FIRST BILATERAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT SIGNING SINCE THE EMBASSY'S JANUARY 30, 1978 NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TRANSMITTING AN ADVANCE COPY OF THE 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT. IN VIEW OF THE PREVIOUS YEAR' EXPERIENCE, THE EMBASSY HAD EARLIER TAKEN PAINS TO EXPLAIN TO HIGH GOG OFFICIALS THAT EITHER SECURITY OR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE WOULD TRIGGER A FRESH HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON GUATEMALA. THE GOG DID NOT REACT EITHER TO THE NOTE OR TO THE EARLIER INFORMAL BRIEFINGS.

5. WE CANNOT SAY WHETHER SIGNING OF THE AID AGREEMENT REPRESENTS A CONSCIOUS AND FULLY COORDINATED GOG DECISION TO ACQUIESCE IN OUR CONGRESSIONAL REQUIREMENT, BUT UNTIL WE HEAR OTHERWISE THAT IS THE CONCLUSION WE SHALL DRAW. WE UNDERSTAND, MOREOVER, THAT THE ARMY G-3 PLANS TO PRESS PRESIDENT-ELECT LUCAS TO AUTHORIZE A GOG REQUEST FOR FY 1979 IMET AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER HE TAKES OFFICE JULY 1. BOSTER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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